

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 071617Z OCT 75  
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1213  
INFO USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0450

EXDIS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, PFOR, PO, ASEC  
SUBJECT: MBFR: SYG REQUEST ON PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION

REF: USNATO 5411

1. WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH CLOSE ATTENTION THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISCUSSION IN THE AD HOC GROUP CONCERNING PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION AND HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ALL MEETINGS HELD ON THIS SUBJECT. IN THE LAST INFORMAL SESSION OF AHG HEADS OF DELEGATION ON OCTOBER 2, WE TOOK A STRONG POSITION THAT AHG HEADS OF DELEGATION SHOULD REACH NO DECISION REGARDING CONDE'S PARTICIPATION IN AHG MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER CONDE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER FROM THE MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR IN LISBON. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION FOR A WHILE LONGER DESPITE PRESSURE BY BOTH BELGIAN AND FRG REPS TO EXTEND INVITATION TO CONDE NOW TO ATTEND AHG SESSIONS ON RESTRICTED BASIS, AND SKEPTICISM OF SOME AD HOC GROUP REPS THAT PORTUGUESE POLITICAL DIRECTOR WILL ACTUALLY ISSUE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO CONDE IN THIS MATTER.

2. ON OCTOBER 6, CONDE TOLD US DEPREP THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED LISBON MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR SOME TIME AGO

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BUT HAD NOT HAD SATISFACTORY CONVERSATION WITH

LATTER, DID NOT EXPECT TO HEAR FROM HIM FURTHER, AND THAT HE (CONDE) DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO RAISE MATTER AGAIN WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR. CONDE SAID HE WAS BUSY WITH OTHER BILATERAL, IAEA AND UNIDO DUTIES AND DID NOT HAVE TIME TO ATTEND AD HOC GROUP SESSIONS REGULARLY BUT WOULD LIKE TO DO SO OCCASIONALLY.

3. CONDE MAKES NO CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE AHG AND HIS EXCLUSION WOULD BRING NO SUBSTANTIVE LOSS. IF MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR TELLS HIM NOT TO PARTICIPATE, THE AD HOC GROUP WILL ACCEPT THIS. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL WILL NOT FIND IT FEASIBLE TO INSTRUCT CONDE TO ACCEPT A LESSER STATUS THAN DE FREITAS, WHOM WE UNDERSTAND IS PERMITTED TO ATTEND NAC MEETINGS THOUGH NOT TO RECEIVE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS.

4. IF CONDE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND AHG SESSIONS ON THE BASIS NOW SUGGESTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AHG, HE (A) WILL HAVE TO DO SO ALONE AND UN- ACCOMPANIED; (B) WILL RECEIVE NO NATO DOCUMENTS SECRET OR ABOVE; AND (C) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE WITH HIM ANY AHG DOCUMENTS OTHER THAN RECORD OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND INFORMALS WHICH, OF COURSE, CONTAIN INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE EAST. HE MIGHT ALSO BE TOLD THAT IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT HIS ATTENDANCE WOULD BE MORE THAN OCCASIONAL.

5. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT CONDE'S ATTENDANCE UNDER THESE AUSPICES WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR SECURITY THREAT. CONDE IS A CONSERVATIVE SOCIALIST WHOSE PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IS LIMITED AND WHO IS NOT INDUSTRIOUS. IT IS DOUBTFUL, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE IT CANNOT BE ASSURED, THAT IF HE AGREED TO ABIDE BY THE POINTS ABOVE, HE WOULD ATTEND MANY AHG MEETINGS ON A BASIS DESCRIBED OR THAT HE WOULD REPORT EXTENSIVELY OR IN A TIMELY WAY ON THEM. FYI: IT IS ALREADY THE CASE THAT MOST DISCUSSIONS ON MORE SENSITIVE SUBJECTS ARE ON A TRILATERAL BASIS WITH UK AND FRG. END FYI.

6. HOWEVER, THE POTENTIALITY FOR SOME SECURITY DAMAGE DEFINITELY EXISTS AND MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE POLITICAL SECRET

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REPERCUSSIONS IN BOTH LISBON AND OTHER NATO CAPITALS OF REQUIRING CONDE'S TOTAL EXCLUSION. WE CANNOT MAKE A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THIS EQUATION. BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THE FRG, BELGIAN AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, GREEK AND ITALIAN REPS HAVE RESISTED THE SYG INITIATIVE FROM THE OUTSET, CLAIMING THAT THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO NATO WOULD BE LESS THAN THE DAMAGE TO THE CHANCE OF DEVELOPING MODERATE GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL. IN

THE OCTOBER 2 SESSION, BELGIAN REP WENT SO FAR AS TO CLAIM THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN EXCLUDING CONDE FROM AHG MEETINGS BECAUSE SECURITY LEAKS AT NATO WERE GREATER.

7. WE INTEND TO RECOMMEND TO AD HOC GROUP THAT GROUP GIVE FURTHER TIME FOR PORTUGUESE POLITICAL DIRECTOR TO ACT. IT APPEARS IMPROBABLE THAT THIS LINE CAN BE HELD FOR MORE THAN A FURTHER WEEK OR SO. AT THAT TIME, WE ASSUME MOST AD HOC GROUP HEADS OF DELEGATION WILL WISH TO INFORM SYG LUNS THAT THEY PROPOSE TO INFORM

CONDE THAT HE CAN ATTEND AHG MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN PARA 4 ABOVE. HENCE, IF HIS TOTAL EXCLUSION IS DESIRED, PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO ACT FAIRLY PROMPTLY. RESOR

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